

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a rule-based file, comprising:
  - obtaining a rule document associating design rules and design rule values;
  - generating a table file from the rule document associating design rule names for the design rules with corresponding ones of the design rule values;
  - obtaining a parameterized rule file having logical operations associated with the design rule names; and
  - replacing the design rule names in the parameterized rule file with corresponding ones of the design rule values in the table file ~~corresponding to the design rule names.~~
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the parameterized rule file is selected from a design rule document, a layout versus schematic document, an extraction technology document, and a technology file.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the rule document is a first design rule document, and wherein the parameterized rule file is a parameterized design rule check file.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 3 wherein the step of generating a table file comprises:
  - converting the first design rule document into a text file;
  - checking for a rule indicator in the text file; and
  - replacing information adjacent to the rule indicator with a design rule value for a design rule found with the rule indicator.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4 wherein the step of replacing the design rule names comprises:
  - comparing the design rule names in the parameterized design rule check file with corresponding design rule names in the table file to obtain the design rule values;
  - and

generating a design rule check file having the logical operations associated with the design rule values.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the step of replacing information comprises selecting the information from a first type of information.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6 further comprising:

storing the design rule check file;

checking for a second type of information; and

repeating the step of replacing the design rule names using the second type of information to provide another design rule check file.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6 further comprising:

checking for a second design rule document;

repeating the step of generating a table file using the second design rule document to provide another design rule check file.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein the second design rule document is for scaling to accommodate lithography.

10. (Currently Amended) A signal-bearing medium containing a program which, when executed by a processor causes execution of a method comprising:

obtaining a first rule document associating design rules and design rule value;

generating a table file from the first rule document associating design rule names for the design rules with corresponding ones of the design rule values;

obtaining a parameterized rule file having logical operations associated with the design rule names; and

replacing the design rule names in the parameterized rule file with corresponding ones of the design rule values in the table file ~~corresponding to the~~ design rule names.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10 wherein the step of generating a table file comprises:

- converting the first rule document into a text file;
- checking for a rule indicator in the text file; and
- replacing information adjacent to the rule indicator with a rule value.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11 wherein the step of replacing the design rule names comprises:

- comparing the design rule names in the parameterized rule file with corresponding design rule names in the table file to obtain the design rule values; and
- generating a design rule check file having the logical operations associated with the design rule values.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12 wherein the step of replacing information comprises selecting the information from a first type of information.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13 further comprising:

- storing the first rule file;
- checking for a second type of information; and
- repeating the step of replacing the design rule names using the second type of information to provide a second rule file.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 14 wherein the first rule document is a spreadsheet.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 15 wherein the first type of information and the second type of information correspond to different columns of the rule values in the spreadsheet.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13 further comprising:

- checking for a second rule document;
- repeating the step of generating a table file using the second rule document to

provide a second rule file.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 17 wherein the first rule document is a first design rule document for a first minimum dimension lithography.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18 wherein the second rule document is a second design rule document for a second minimum dimension lithography different from the first minimum dimension lithography.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 19 wherein the first minimum dimension lithography is for an embedded core, and the second minimum dimension lithography is for a host integrated circuit device comprising the embedded core.

Claims 21-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for generating a rule-based file, comprising:

means for obtaining a rule document associating design rules and design rule values;

means for generating a table file from the rule document associating design rule names for the design rules with corresponding ones of the design rule values;

means for obtaining a parameterized rule file having logical operations associated with design rule names; and

means for replacing the design rule names in the parameterized rule file with corresponding ones of the design rule values in the table file ~~corresponding to the design rule names~~.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 25 wherein the rule document is a first design rule document and the parameterized rule file is a parameterized design rule check file, and wherein the means for generating a table file comprises:

means for converting the first design rule document into a text file;

means for checking for a rule indicator in the text file; and

means for replacing information adjacent to the rule indicator with a design rule value for a design rule found with the rule indicator.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 26 wherein the means for replacing the design rule names comprises:

means for comparing the design rule names in the parameterized design rule check file with corresponding design rule names in the table file to obtain the design rule values; and

means for generating a design rule check file having the logical operations associated with the design rule values.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein the means for replacing information comprises selecting the information from a first type of information, and wherein the apparatus further comprises:

means for storing the design rule check file;

means for checking for a second type of information; and

means for repeating the replacing the design rule names using the second type of information to provide another design rule check file.